

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Decision Record - Memorandum

**Big Wash Five Mile Mastication/Slashing Decision #2
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0098-EA**

PREPARING OFFICE

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Bureau of Land Management
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Decision Record - Memorandum
Big Wash Five Mile Mastication/Slashing Decision
#2
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0098-EA

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Vernal Field Office

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Chapter 1. Finding of No Significant Impact

Big Wash and Five Mile Mastication/Slashing EA

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1.1. Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2014–EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the Big Wash/Five Mile Mastication, Slashing DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2014–0098-EA, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impacts on the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

1.2. Signatures:

Approved by:

\s\ Troy Suwyn

Troy Suwyn

Fire Management Officer

12/17/2015]

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Chapter 2. Decision Record

Big Wash and Five Mile Mastication/Slashing EA

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2.1. Background

This project was analyzed in DOI-BLM-G010-2014-0098 EA. It was determined that the project could go forward subject cultural review and clearance, upon which time a new decision record would be prepared documenting the completion of that process. On December 16, 2015 the cultural review was completed with a determination of “no adverse effect”. SHPO has concurred with that determination. Since the original preparation of this EA, the Greater Sage-grouse RMP Amendment was signed. BLM has reviewed the decision in the ROD. The alternatives considered in this EA are in conformance with the Vernal Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (2008), and the Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (2015). This project complies with the following ROD objective:

- Objective of the project is to help restore the sagebrush ecosystem, eliminate the risk of Pinyon-Juniper encroachment into the sagebrush ecosystem, and modify fire behavior by reducing fuel loads.

2.2. Decision

Based on my understanding of the information contained in the *Big Wash/Five Mile Mastication/Slashing EA* and my subsequent finding of no significant impact, it is my decision to authorize the actions needed to restore the sagebrush vegetation type, and reduce fuel loads as set out in DOI-BLM-G010-2014-0098 EA.

The following actions will be realized:

- Apply the mastication treatment for the Big Wash Mastication Phase II within the project area.
- Apply ongoing weed control efforts following treatment.
- Avoid project activities from May 15 — June 30 during the elk calving season.

2.3. Rationale:

My decision to authorize implementation of the proposed action alternative will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation to wilderness characteristics, threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, or matters pertaining to Native American religious freedoms or their customs. Realization of the proposed action is in conformance with the existing Vernal RMP (2008), as amended in 2015, and is consistent with the Duchesne County’s General Land Plan.. The No Action Alternative was not selected because that alternative would not meet the stated purpose and need of restoring sagebrush vegetation and reducing the hazardous fuel loads.

2.4. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

The decision or approval may be appealed to the Interior Board Of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR 4.21. Within 30 days of receipt of the decision, an appeal must be filed to: Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia, 22203. A copy of the notice of appeal must also be filed in the Vernal Field Office at 170 South

500 East; Vernal, Utah, 84078, as well as with: Office of the Solicitor, 125 South State Street, Suite 6201, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84138. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on , July 16, 2013. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR 3150.2(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellants success on merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors the granting of the stay

2.5. Authorizing Official:

\s\ Troy Suwyn
Troy Suwyn
Fire Management Officer

December 17, 2015